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March 22, 2012

Newport Beach Planning Commission
City of Newport Beach
3300 Newport Boulevard
Newport Beach, CA 92663

Dear Council Members and Planning Commissioners of the City of Newport Beach,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed development of the Newport Banning Ranch community. I see a number of reasons to oppose the development, including: 1) the loss of additional critical coastal habitat in southern California, 2) the loss of the opportunity to fully maximize the acreage for open space as a recreational attraction for residents and tourists, 3) the inevitable destruction of critical habitat for several animal species with conservation status, 4) lack of access due to the California Coastal Commission's blocking of the access road from PCH and removal of the 19th street bridge from the county master plan, and 5) subjecting Costa Mesa residents to increased traffic, noise, and air pollution.

Due to the now limited extent of public coastal open space and habitat in Orange County and southern California in general, the importance of protecting this area from development cannot be overstated. Of particular importance, the area for proposed development has increased habitat value due to its connectivity with the Talbert Preserve and the Santa Ana River. More open space is needed not only for California flora and fauna, but for long term quality of life for residents in the form of recreation and living in an aesthetically pleasing area. This is a lot to trade off for shorter term gains in potential profits.

I would also like to take this opportunity to report hearing the endangered Clapper Rail in January and then I confirmed a sighting in February 2012 on the property from the Santa Ana River trail. I have a doctorate in Ecology from the University of California, Davis with an emphasis in avian ecology, and therefore take such sightings very seriously.

Thank you for your time in consideration of my opinions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jan Goerrissen", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jan Goerrissen, Ph.D.